

REMARKS

At the outset, applicants thank Examiner Till for the courtesy extended at the interview of January 24, 2005.

Applicants note that in this office action claims 106 and 138 were considered to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, claims 96 and 126 have been rewritten so as to represent claims 106 and 138, respectively, in independent form. Thus, independent claims 96 and 126, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Claims 62 – 64, 67 - 88, 93, 106, 111 – 125, and 138 have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to further pursue the subject matter of those claims by way of a continuation application.

Having demonstrated that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the invention as claimed, and that all other remaining rejections of claims have been adequately addressed, this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request early and favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated, since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2112 (Docket #100103.52494C1).

Respectfully submitted,



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